

1. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of a melamine based flame retardant by a reaction of a melamine comprising compound and a polyol, characterised in that the melamine comprising compound is selected from the group consisting of melamine phosphate, melamine pyrophosphate and melamine polyphosphate, the polyol is selected from the group consisting of pentaerythritol, dipentaerythritol and tripentaerythritol and the reaction is carried out by reactive extrusion in an extruder in a molar ratio of the melamine comprising compound to the polyol is between 1.0 : 1.0 and 4.0 : 1.0 and that the reaction is performed at a temperature between 200 and 300°C.

2. (original) A process according to claim 1, characterised in that the melamine based flame retardant is prepared by reaction of melamine phosphate with pentaerythritol.

3. (original) A process according to claim 1, characterised in that the extruder is a twin-screw extruder.

4. (currently amended) A process according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-3~~, characterised in that the reaction of the melamine comprising compound and the polyol is carried out in the presence of up to 30 weight% of a polymer.

5. (original) A process according to claim 1, characterised in that the reaction of the melamine comprising compound and the polyol is carried out in the presence of 5 to 20 weight% of a polymer.

6. (original) A process according to claim 4, characterised in that the polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene and high impact polystyrene.

7. **(original)** A process according to claim 6, characterised in that the polyethylene is high-density polyethylene.

8. **(currently amended)** The melamine based flame retardant obtained~~able~~ by the process according to claim 1.

9. **(original)** A polymer composition comprising at least a polymer and up to 30 weight% of the melamine based flame retardant according to claim 8.

10. **(original)** A polymer composition according to claim 9, characterised in that the polymer is polypropylene.

11. **(original)** Shaped articles comprising the polymer composition according to claim 8.